



STATEMENT OF ANHEUSER-BUSCH  
ON HB 5427 AND HB 5428

GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE  
MARCH 6, 2014

Chairman Doyle, Chairman Baram and distinguished members of the General Law Committee. Anheuser-Busch appreciates the opportunity to comment on HB 5427 and HB 5428.

Anheuser-Busch opposes both HB 5427 (An Act Concerning Untimely Shipping and Unauthorized Deliveries by Alcoholic Liquor Manufacturers and Out-of-State Shippers) and HB 5428 (An Act Concerning a Floor Stock Allowance for Beer) and respectfully urges the Committee to refrain from taking action on the bills. Neither bill has the full support of the Connecticut beer industry and, while undoubtedly well intentioned, would have unintended consequences that would negatively impact the industry.

The current proposals, regrettably, represent a divided industry and unfortunately have been the source of confusion for both the legislature and industry advocates. As such, it is abundantly clear that neither bill makes strides to improve the marketplace for consumers, retailers, wholesalers and brewers.

While there is acknowledgement within the industry that change is needed, there is fundamental disagreement at this point on what needs to be changed and how to accomplish it.

With that in mind, Anheuser-Busch proposes that the industry work cooperatively in the months leading up to the 2015 legislative session to draft a proposal that has the support of beer wholesalers and suppliers. We believe only at that point is the time right to seek legislative action.

Anheuser-Busch appreciates the Committee's work to improve the beer industry and urges this body to forego action on these bills because they do not represent the beer industry's best efforts. We hope to bring forward a proposal for the Committee's consideration in 2015.

Thank you for your consideration.